

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 remain pending in the application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8 have been amended herein.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-8 recite allowable subject matter. Although minor changes have been made to some dependent claims, these changes are not believed to affect the scope of the claims and have not been made for any reasons related to patentability. Claims 1-8 are believed to remain in condition for allowance.

The Abstract has been revised to eliminate usage of the term “means”, as requested by the Examiner. Other changes have been made to improve its form. Favorable consideration is requested.

The disclosure was objected to for inconsistencies between the distance “Z” shown in Fig. 7 and that described in the specification. In addition, the lead line for reference numeral 41 in Fig. 8 was requested to be changed. In response, Applicants are submitting herewith a Letter Transmitting Corrected Formal Drawings amending the gap Z and revising the lead line for reference numeral 41. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the objections to the disclosure are requested.

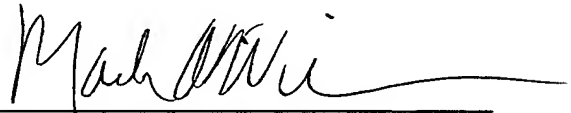
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by Claims 1-8 and that the present application is in

condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
MAW\tni

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